

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 EUR-25 NIC-01 DRC-01 /118 W

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R 040620Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4015

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 5777

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VN, VS, AS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN RELATIONS WITH NORTH VIET-NAM

REF: SAIGON 11188

1. EMBASSY INFORMED BY GVN EMBASSY CANBERRA THAT BRUCE WOODBERRY, AUSTRALIAN CHARGE IN HANOI SINCE JULY, 1973, WILL SHORTLY RETURN TO CANBERRA FOR RE-ASSIGNMENT (PROBABLY AS AMBASSADOR TO ALGERIA). HE WILL BE REPLACED IN HANOI BY GRAEME LEWIS, UNTIL RECENTLY COUNSELOR OF AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN TOKYO. COUNSELOR OF GVN EMBASSY, LUU TUONG QUANG, TOLD EMBOFF SEPT 4 THAT DRV HAD REJECTED AUSTRALIAN NOMINATION OF LLOYD THOMSON AS AMBASSADOR, PROBABLY BECAUSE THOMSON HAD SERVED IN SAIGON AS AUSTRALIAN MINISTER-COUNSELOR, 1968-70. LEWIS, WHO HAD NO PREVIOUS VIET-NAM EXPERIENCE, WILL BE CHARGE IN HANOI.

2. IN CONVERSATION SEPT 4 WITH EMBOFF WARREN LANG (INDO-CHINA SECTION, DFA, BRIEFLY IN AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON IN JULY-AUGUST, 1974) CONFIRMED THAT WOODBERRY WOULD RETURN SHORTLY AND BE REPLACED BY LEWIS. LANG CONFIRMED ALSO CONTINUING DIFFICULTY OF DEALING WITH CHARGE OF DRV EMBASSY CANBERRA, CONFIDENTIAL

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NGUYEN DY NIEN. LANG SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS WITH NIEN SEPT 5

INADVISABILITY OF DRV PRESSING FOR FURTHER AUSTRALIAN GESTURE TO PRG AS PRICE OF IMPROVEMENT IN STATUS OF AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN HANOI. LANG SAID HE WOULD POINT OUT THAT ANY SUBSTANTIAL GESTURE TO PRG WOULD PROBABLY BE REVERSED BY LIBERAL-COUNTRY GOVERNMENT WHENEVER IT COMES TO POWER IN AUSTRALIA AND THAT HUMILIATION FOR DRV COULD BE SUBSTANTIAL.

3. WE WILL REVIEW SITUATION FURTHER WITH WOODBERRY WHEN HE RETURNS TO CANBERRA.
GREEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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